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CASES AND READINGS ON THE JURISDICTION AND PROCEDURE OF THE FEDERAL COURTS, by George W. Rightmire, Professor of Law in the College of Law of the Ohio State University and member of the Columbus, Ohio, Bar. Cincinnati: The W. H. Andeson Company, 1917; pp. xvi, 892.

This book reflects its editor's idea of the proper and preferable method of acquainting students in their preparation for the bar with the subject of the jurisdiction and procedure of the Federal courts. In his preface the editor says:

"Although the jurisdiction of the Federal courts is largely a matter of statute and is in the main based on an elaborate code, yet approaching the subject through the cases seems as highly desirable and yields the same good results as are noticed in other branches of the law. The traditional method of dealing with the subject has been by lectures and text-books, but the scope of the subject and the wealth of cases has shown the possibility of pursuing the case treatment."

One who undertakes to make a selection of cases best suited to the needs of students in acquiring the fundamentals of a knowledge of the jurisdiction and procedure of the Federal courts sets himself no easy task. He will be bound by considerations of environment and time allotted to the course. The time given to the course is always and necessarily limited to a greater or less degree. Only the fundamentals can be acquired by the student in his preparatory course. Nothing further could be expected or desired. The details of the subject must be left to the practitioner and cannot wisely be expected of the student preparing to enter the profession. Taking all the circumstances into consideration, can the subject be best presented to the student from the beginning to the end of his course by the study of cases? There are those who share the views to which Mr. Rightmire inclines, that "the case treatment" as he terms it, is the preferable method of leading preparatory students into a competent, working knowledge of the subject. There are others who disagree with this view. One teacher of no inconsiderable experience declares: "I do not believe the subject can be covered, within the time ordinarily allotted, by the study of cases."

The consideration of time given to the course, which must be subject to some reasonable limit, cannot be ignored. The maximum time usually allotted to the subject of Federal courts, their jurisdiction and procedure, is two hours a week for a semester, about thirty-two hours, an allotment, in view of the other subjects necessary for a preparatory course, reasonably sufficient. Benjamin R. Curtis, then a retired justice of the Supreme Court, gave a course of twelve lectures to the students of Harvard in 1872, which it would be presumptuous to say has been surpassed in plan of treatment and wealth of pertinent illustration by any course of instruction on the subject before or since given. The learned ex-justice did not expect that the course would be completed with the completion of his several lectures but frankly stated to his students that his lectures would be little worth to them unless they studied the cases to which he made reference.

Mr. Rightmire has included within his collection, about two hundred

cases, some 750 pages of matter, which together with precedents on procedure, and the Judiciary Act of 1789, of 1875, of 1888, of 1891 and the New Equity Rules swell the volume to nearly 900 pages. Students will find plenty to do to cover the volume in the time usually allotted to the course. The cases included in the collection present the principal classes of Federal jurisdiction and the constitutional provisions and acts of Congress conferring such jurisdiction. The important subject of ancillary jurisdiction is not covered except incidentally. Mr. Rightmire gives evidence of having selected his cases with care and discrimination. His work will be a convenient and valuable aid to students of the Federal judicial system, and will not unlikely be judged by what it stands for rather than by what it is.

R. E. BUNKER.

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FEDERAL RULE BOOK, ANNOTATED; Containing All the General Rules of Practice in Courts and Commissions, by Franklin A. Beecher. Detroit: Fred S. Drake, 1917; pp. vii, 579.

This book contains in convenient and excellent form the rules of all the Federal courts and more important Federal commissions, namely: The Rules of the Supreme Court, The Rules of the Circuit Court of Appeals, All Circuits; The New Equity Rules of 1912, The General Orders in Bankruptcy, The Rules of the Interstate Commerce Commission, The Rules of the Court of Customs Appeals, The Rules of the Court of Claims, The Rules of the Supreme Court Relating to Appeals from the Court of Claims, The Rules of the Admiralty Court, The Rules in Admiralty of the Second and Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, The Rules of the Federal Commission, and The Rules of the Inter-Commerce Court Abolished by the Act of October 22, 1913, 38 Stat. 219. The reason for including the rules of the Commerce Court in this collection is not apparent, unless it be found in the fact that the jurisdiction of the Commerce Court was upon its abolition conferred upon the district courts. To all these is added the code of ethics adopted by the American Bar Association. All these are separately and suitably indexed and annotated.

If this book be not indispensable to the practitioner in the Federal tribunals, it will be most serviceable to him in finding at the least expense of time the rule and the cases applicable to it on any question of procedure with which he may be concerned. The arrangement of the matter and the mechanical execution of the book as a whole leave little, if anything, to be desired.

R. E. BUNKER.

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JURISDICTION AND PRACTICE OF FEDERAL COURTS.—A Handbook for Practitioners and Students, by Charles P. Williams, M.A., of the St. Louis Bar. St. Louis: The F. H. Thomas Law Book Co., 1917; pp. xx, 586.

This book, the result of lectures prepared by its author during several years of instruction to students at the Law School of Washington Univer-